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Secta. IX-27—100,000—21-8-48.

Development (1948) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 3411

Dated 24.6.1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Labour - Disputes - Grievances of private car drivers - Notice of strike - Terms of dress note considered unnecessary - Papers - Recorded.

THE MADRAS MOTOR DRIVERS' ASSOCIATION.

PERIAMET. MADRAS.

Dated, 5th March 1948.

To

The Commissioner of Labour,
Chepauk, Madras.

Dear Sir,

The private Car Drivers are going on strike from 1.4.1948. I request you to intervene in the matter and try to settle the matter so as to avert the strike. Their main demands are:-

1. Weekly Holidays.
2. A fair dearness allowance.
3. Gratuity and Provident Fund.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) x x x
General Secretary.

Copy to the Secretary, Development Department, Government of Madras.

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No. C6/2309/48.

Office of the Commissioner of Labour, Chepauk, Madras, dated 11th March 1948

From

R.M. Sundaram, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir,

Sub:- Labour dispute - Notice of strike - Private Car Drivers - Press Communique - Suggested.

Ref:- Letter dated 5.3.1948 from the General Secretary, Madras Motor Drivers' Association to me, copy to Secretary to Government, Development Department.

General Secretary, Madras Motor Drivers' Association in his letter dated 5.3.1948 to me copy to Secretary to Government, Development Dept. (copy enclosed for ready reference) has intimated if the demands for weekly holiday, a fair dearness allowance, and Gratuity and Provident Fund are not conceded, the workers will go on strike from 1.4.1948.

I suggest that a Press communique may be issued recommending to owners the grant of weekly holidays and fair

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dearness allowance to private cardrivers.

G.O.Ms.No.3411,Devt.d/24-6-48.
Labour - Disputes - Grievances of private car drivers - Notice of strike - Issue of press note considered unnecessary - Papers Recorded.

(Sd) S. Harris Fletcher,
For Commissioner of Labour.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Development Department.

Memorandum No. 65022/PI/48-1 dated 9.7.1948.

Sub:- Labour - Motor Transport - General Strike in sympathy with private car drivers.

Ref:- Letter from the Commissioner of Labour, No. C6/2309/48 dated 25.6.1948.

The Commissioner of Labour is informed that the Government have again carefully considered his recommendation for the issue of a press communique on the lines suggested by him and that they have again come to the conclusion that no communique need be issued.

W.R.S. Sattianathan,
Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s. 3

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Labour - Motor Transport - General strike in sympathy with private car drivers.

Please see the papers in G.O. No. 3411, Development, dated 24.6.1948.

On the suggestion of the Commissioner of Labour it was proposed to issue the draft Press Note on page 13 of the G.O. at (E), but Hon'ble Premier considered that there was no need for it.

The Commissioner of Labour has now repeated his request to Government for the issue of a Press Note on the same lines.

It is submitted that it is impracticable to grant a weekly holiday and cut up the pay of private car drivers into basic pay and dearness allowance. Many of these men enjoy amenities such as food, tiffin, etc. at all odd times if not always, as also extra money from both their masters and their friends. In these circumstances and in vie of Hon'ble Premier's minutes on page9 of the G.O. at 'E' it does not appear necessary to issue a Press Note of the sor suggested by the Commissioner of Labour. On the other hand it is for consideration whether a Press Note to the effect that the proposed sympathetic strike of all Transport workers is illegal, that it will be treated as such and that the federation will be well advised not to resort to a strike and bring hardship on the workers, may issue. Subject to orders a draft 'Press Note' is submitted for consideration.

x x x
6.7.1948.

Motor drivers of private cars must be regarded as domestres. It is not only impracticable but absolutely wrong to enforce terms of service on private individuals. This all very well to claim that private motor drivers are not domestres. But this is not the case. If we git it now, tomorrow, our cooks will demand similar privileges and so on. I have discussed this question with many car owners. They generally feel that if a motor driver by compulsion is to get some specific amenities such as dearness allowance, a weekly holiday and so on. They would prefer to do without a driver. So they ~~xxx~~ attempt at any sort of coercion of owners of cars to give specific terms of service to drivers will no doubt lead to a discharge of a large number of them and we cannot enforce any sort of award on a host of owners. Besides, the majority of car owners, treat their drivers voluntarily with great consideration. I for instance give my driver about Rs. 55/- per mensem batta of Rs.1½ a day in camp, leave whenever he needs it, food in the house or money for food whenever necessar medical treatment for himself and family, cloths for him and so on. All this will stop if we enforce specific terms of service. So the majority of drivers will suffer. I suggest that we resist this threatened strike vigorously. That we issue a press communique accordingly.

The press communique may be approved. I am afraid I cannot at all agree with the Commissioner of Labour, who seems to be taking up a very weak attitude with regard to the

whole subject.

x x x
6.7.1948.

H.M. (Industries). H.S.R.
6.7.

H.M. (Finance). No communique need be issued.

G.G.R.
6.7.

I agree.
H.M. (Public Works). M.B.
7.7.

Hon'ble Premier. O.P.R.
7.7

For perusal of minutes of Hon'ble Minister (Finance), Hon'ble Minister (Public Works) and Hon'ble Premier.

W.R.S.S.
7.7.

H.M. (Industries) H.S.R.
7.7.

Inform Commissioner of Labour.

x x x
8.7.1948.

Draft Office Memorandum is submitted for approval.

x x x
9.7.48.

W.R.S.S.
10.7.

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office

k.y.s. 9.9.

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